

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-2, 4, 6-11, and 13-24, without prejudice.

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously presented) A method of operating an electronic lock box system, said method comprising:

(a) providing at least one electronic lock box having a secure compartment therein, a first computer circuit, a first memory circuit, a first device reader port, and a first data entry apparatus;

(b) providing a processing apparatus having a second computer circuit, a second memory circuit, a second device reader port, and a second data entry apparatus;

(c) providing a portable memory device having a third memory circuit, and at least one electrical conductor for communicating with a device reader port;

(d) at said second computer circuit:

(i) determining a first present epoch time, determining a predetermined epoch time window for which a portable memory device will be valid, determining a first cryptographic seed value for use with a data encryption function, and determining a user's first identification code;

(ii) using said data encryption function, calculating a diversified value based upon both said first cryptographic seed value and said user's first identification code;

(iii) coupling said portable memory device to said second device reader port, and communicating said diversified value to said portable memory device;

(e) at said at least one electronic lock box:

(i) coupling said portable memory device to said first device reader port, and communicating said diversified value from said portable memory device to at least one of said first computer circuit and said first memory circuit;

(ii) determining a second present epoch time, determining a second cryptographic seed value; and determining a user's second identification code from a manual entry at said first data entry apparatus;

(iii) using said data encryption function, decrypting said first diversified value based

upon said second cryptographic seed value, resulting in a third identification code; and

(iv) comparing said user's second identification code and said third identification code, and if they match, permitting access to said secure compartment;

wherein said step of determining a second present epoch time involves adjusting said present epoch time, based upon an ambient temperature at said at least one electronic lock box.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously presented) A method of operating an electronic lock box system, said method comprising:

(a) providing a central database computer and an electronic lock box at a second physical location;

(b) encrypting, at a first real time, a user's identification number using a first encryption seed value that is known only to said central database computer and to said electronic lock box, wherein said first encryption seed value is time dependent;

(c) storing said encrypted user's identification number on a portable memory apparatus at said central database computer;

(d) transferring said encrypted user's identification number from said portable memory apparatus to said electronic lock box;

(e) decrypting, at a second real time, said encrypted user's identification number using a second encryption seed value, thereby resulting in a decrypted ID value;

(d) comparing said decrypted ID value to data entered on a keypad at said electronic lock box, and if the data matches said decrypted ID value, allowing access to a secure compartment within said electronic lock box;

wherein said step of decrypting said encrypted user's identification number, at a second real time, involves adjusting a present epoch time that corresponds to said second real time, based upon an ambient temperature at said at least one electronic lock box.

13. (Canceled)
14. (Canceled)
15. (Canceled)
16. (Canceled)
17. (Canceled)
18. (Canceled)
19. (Canceled)
20. (Canceled)
21. (Canceled)
22. (Canceled)
23. (Canceled)
24. (Canceled)